



# **DYNAMIC MEMORIES**

\* Tandy Corp / Radio Shack Inc

**DECEMBER 84**

**MERRY  
XMAS  
TO  
ALL**

## SOUTH BAY TRS-BO USERS GROUP

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SBUC meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the north-east corner of Dyasn's building at:

5401 Patrick Henry Drive  
Time-7:15 to 10:30 P.M. Santa Clara, Ca.

December 18, January 15, February 19

7:30 to 8:00 will be dedicated to elections. This will be followed by the usual open session, where questions are answered for the less expert by the most expert. No other program details are at hand.

\*\*\*\*\*  
The first Wednesday of every month is for Model 100 fans.  
Same place, same time  
\*\*\*\*\*

### MEMBERSHIP

If you wish to become a member of SBUC and start receiving our newsletter "Dynamic Memories" then send \$18.00 (check/moneyorder) to the following address:

South Bay TRS-BO Users Group  
P.O. Box 60116  
Sunnyvale, Ca. 94088

or come to one of our meetings. If you also wish to communicate with our bulletin board system (SBUC-BO) then include an additional \$25.00 for an account on the system. You must be a member of SBUC to have an account on SBUC-BO. Please include your address and phone number. Thanks...

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## YOUR STEERING COMMITTEE

| Member                 | S8UG-80<br>Username | Phone          |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Discussion Leaders:    |                     |                |
| Sabri Kawash           | (SABRI)             | (408) 732-5482 |
| Eric Brewer            | (BREWER)            | (408) 252-9332 |
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| (doc>) Pete Fratus     | (FRATUS)            | (408) 258-8389 |
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| Robert Byrd            | (SYSOP)             | (408) 945-9990 |

## OTHER KEY INDIVIDUALS

Cover Artist:

Public Relations:

VOLUNTEER NEEDED (---) (XXX) XXX-XXXX

Host Computer:

SBUG-80 (EVERYONE) (408) 946-2286

If the need arises, feel free to give any one of us a call.

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THE EDITOR'S BYTES & BITES

Nominations for officers were held last meeting, as announced. (See page 3 for details). It was not exactly a lively political meeting. The apathy could have been spread with a spatula. It gave me the feeling that had I declared myself JOEL I, Czar, Kaiser, President for life, and immortal ruler of all the SBUGGERS, I would have carried it off without too much of a struggle, given the goons I had stationed in the back of the hall.

Fortunately for all of you, my ambitions do not extend in that direction. My eventual consecration, in another sphere, will come as a surprise to all. There is a lesson to be learned by anyone interested. The key to political success is not worthiness for the office, it is the indifference of the electorate. The governed get the government they deserve.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

HAPPY NEW YEAR

## SOUTH BAY TRS-80 USERS GROUP

### ELECTIONS

The following is the list of nominations decided upon by the membership at the November meeting.

For discussion leader: Eric Brewer  
Don Rhodes  
Gerry McKee  
Wright Huntley

For treasurer Eric Brewer  
Don Rhodes

For Newsletter Editor: Joel Lee

For Librarians:  
Disc: Bernie Thompson  
Tape: Gary Dixon  
Doc: Pete Fratus

For Cover Artist: Volunteer needed

For Public Relations: Volunteer needed

In regards to the double nominations of Eric Brewer and Don Rhodes, there is some confusion that will have to be sorted out at the December elections.

### SPOOLING WITH THE MODEL 4 AND 4P

By Ian Webb

The spooling feature of the Model 4 TRSDOS 6.1/6.2 is something that should be of great use to everyone. Even with only 64K, this feature is very useful. With the 128K machine, this means you can use a 32K spooler without a loss of primary memory.

When can you use the spooler? Whenever a program accesses the printer through the DOS SVC routines. If the program accesses the printer directly through an output to the hardware port, you need to re-write the routine to go through DOS. For example, Model 4 VISICALC goes through DOS so it can use the spooler with no modification of the program.

The regular printer drivers for SuperScript use port outputs to the printer, they need to be modified. Using the spooler with VISICALC, you can still have a 58K spreadsheet if you have the 128K machine. (There is NO EXCUSE for not having a 128K machine these days. See past articles I have written.) When you want to print a spreadsheet, you can do so; wait a few seconds for the spooler to take over

and then go on with your work with little appssrent delay. The printer will stop whenever you are accessing the disk drives, but other than that, you forget that you are using the spooler. (If you want additional spooling capsbility, you can also direct overflow to a disk file, but I only use the memory.)

Since many members of our user's group are former NEWDOS80 users and aren't familiar with LDOS 5.1 and its features, which are similar to TRSDOS 6.1/6.2, I thought I should remind you of this valuable feature built-into TRSDOS 6.1/6.2.

How do you cauae the spooler to become operative? From the DOS prompt, type SPOOL \*PR (BANK=1,DISK=0). This creates a 32K spooling area in memory and DOESN'T form a disk file for overflow. From then on the spooler is operative. See your DOS manual for details. The procedure is similar with LDOS 5.1, but the bank feature is unavailable.

If there is sufficient interest expressed in how to modify your printer driver, that can be tackled in a future article.

## SUPERSCRIPSIT FOR THE MODEL 4

By Ian Webb

I hadn't been using SuperScripsit for the Model 4, since I so often use Model III machines at school for work I am doing. The other day I decided to begin to see about using Model 4 SuperScripsit. I was sorely disappointed.

The Model 4 SuperScripsit is as bad as the "old" Electric Pencil was. If you type faster than 40 or so words per minute, you can out-type SuperScripsit for the Model 4. Practically every line, particularly at the end of the lines, drops at least one character. Proofreading is more hassle than it's worth.

Perhaps Model III SuperScripsit suffers from the same problems under some circumstances, but at home I always run it at double clock speed and I haven't noticed it on unmodified Model III machines at school.

I have talked with someone who has run SuperScripsit at 6 MHz on the Model 4 and that apparently solves the problem. However, the clock speed-up that he bought has other problems and he has sent it back.

Until Radio Shack "fixes" this problem don't bother with SuperScripsit in the Model 4 mode unless you are a "hunt and peck" typist. It is more frustration than it's

## SOUTH BAY TRS-80 USERS GROUP

SuperScript on the shelf.

Beaidea, Wordstar doesn't suffer from mysterious problems and unpredictable loss of files. I wish I hadn't wasted my money on a SuperScript upgrade to Model 4.

### RADIO SHACK CP/M+ FOR THE MODEL 4

By Ian Webb

If you agree with me that SuperScript for the Model 4 is a waste of money, you are going to really agree on this one! I bit on the special for CP/M+ several months ago. I should have known better. It is an utterly worthless package compared to CP/M 2.2 from Montezuma Micro.

CP/M+ is slow and cumbersome and has obvious errors such as a problem with the date routine when you sign on. (A recent 80 Micro had a fix, but that DOESN'T completely fix the routine...even the author of that routine didn't catch another problem!)

CP/M+ doesn't support enough disk formats to make it worthwhile and the disk capacity is very small. The Transient Program Area (TPA), which is a measure of the size of a program you can run, is very small, even when used with the 128K machine. The Tandy CP/M+ doesn't allow double aided drive support and you can't use 80 track drives. The small capacity disk format is made worse by the lack of support of these higher capacity drives.

The package CAN read Kaypro and Osborne diskettes, but this isn't documented where I have found it. You just put in the diskette and can read them and write to them. In fact, if you have a friend with a Kaypro or Osborne, you would be amst to have them format all your diskettes for you so you can use the larger capacity disks used by those machines.

Several rumors about a Tandy upgrade (free???) have circulated, but at this point nothing has materialized. Any of the rest of you suckers want to institute a class action lawsuit for our money and damages????

### MODEL 4P FEATURES

By Ian Webb

The Model 4P Service Manual shows that the machine will NOT support external drives without hardware modification. The drive select lines to the external drives are not wired to the cable and the buffers on the lines are missing. Even if you open the case and add a connector to the outside world you will have to wire in

a buffer and the connections to the cable. This explains why I couldn't get a response from external drives when I tried it while I added double-sided internal drives.

The 4P Service Manual also mentions two possible configurations of the machine. It clearly states that double-sided drives are a possible configuration. I suppose that is a future feature, or is it something they decided against?

The manual also shows two different video configurations, one with a B&W tube and one with the green screen. Even though there are two separate parts lists and schematics, the only difference seems to be the actual CRT.

When you boot you can cause a diagnostic routine in the 4P to be enabled if you hold down the period key. The service manual shows quite a few interesting routines available in the 4K boot ROM. It is also possible to boot the machine from the RS-232 line making the machine a true remote to another machine????

## TRSDOS 6.2

By Ian Webb

TRSDOS 6.2 is an upgrade to the LSI operating system for the Models 4 and 4P. It costs approximately \$40 and comes with a completely new padded binder. (If it's padded, you know it's going to cost more!) Included is a new DOS diskette and pages to add to the Technical Reference Manual if you purchased that.

Among the features that have been added are a CAT command which is a "no features" DIR command. (Wonder if the Apple CATALOG has anything to do with this?) There is also an on line HELP feature if you wish to use disk space for it. The system is much smoother and seems quite a bit faster than the 6.1.2 latest implementation. I think it's worth the investment.

Even though the local store said they didn't think the new machines would come with TRSDOS 6.2, our EDITOR reported that his new Model 4 had it. I suspect "everyone" will be using it within a few months. Even Tandy knows that if a piece of software is shipped with the machines that it will travel the underground pipeline faster than data on the data bus!

## GOOD BUYS - RUMORS - SPECULATION

By Ian Webb

## SOUTH BAY TRS-80 USERS GROUP

There was a Model III, unmodified Taody 2-drive machine with about 20-30 hours of use on it, sold via an advertisement to the Mercury-News a few weeks ago. Price? \$400!!!! Being sold by an individual who needed a machine to transfer files to his CP/M machine and who said he couldn't borrow or rent one so he just bought it to use for file transfer and didn't need it any more.

The computer swap at DeAnza has little TRS 80 equipment in it, but there have been a few interesting items. A host adaptor and hard-drive controller were being sold for \$75 apiece...oo guarantee though. Saw two very clean Sbugart SS DD 8" drives for \$25 apiece. I was tempted, but restrained myself. Since I already have two, one in use and one for parts, I just couldn't figure out what to do with two more!

Most of the rest of what is there has been game oriented, Apple and Atari and pseudo-commercial outfits with relatively high prices. This last week at least the 1/2 height FD55B drives were down to \$125 from \$155 a month ago. That's not quite as good as the \$105 advertised at a place in San Leandro a few months ago.

There is a Model 4 Profile + in the works. I haven't seen it work, but did have my hands on the diskette. It is through beta testing and should be along before long. I understand that the preliminary manual had so many mistakes in it that it appeared as though it would need to be re-written.

There is a program due out which will allow two programs to run on the Model 4 at the same time using the two banks of memory. Most likely it really means one runs while the other suspends operation. Not yet available. Why not a "aidekick" like program which Borland is selling for the IBM PC? Maybe the same technique would allow it to reside in a 32K bank and be called up when needed to do arithmetic or refer to an appointment book, etc.

### A Christmas Letter

Courtesy of Glenn Vaughn

Misa Agoes McHolateio  
69 Caah Avenue  
Beaver Valley, Colorado

December 14, 1981

Dearest John,

I went to the door today and the postman delivered a partridge and a pear tree. What a thoroughly delightful gift. I couldn't have been more surprised. With deepest love and devotion,



DECEMBER 1984

Agnes

Miss Agnea McHolatein  
69 Cash Avenue  
Beaver Valley, Colorado

December 15, 1981

Dearest Joho,

Today the postman brought your very sweet gift. Just imagine----two turtle doves! I'm delighted at your very thoughtful gift. They are just adorable.

All my love,  
Agnea

Miaa Agoea McHolstein  
69 Cash Avenue  
Beaver Valley, Colorado

December 16, 1981

Dear John,

Oh! Aren't you the extravagant one! Now I must really protest. I don't deserve such generosity - French heos. They are just darling, but I must insist - you've been too kind.

Love,  
Agoes

Miss Agnes McHolstein  
69 Cash Avenue  
Beaver Valley, Colorado

December 17, 1981

Dear John,

Today the postman delivered 4 calling birds. Now, really, they are beautiful, but doo't you think enough is enough? You're being too romaotic.

Affectiooately,  
Agoes

Miss Agoea McHolstein  
69 Cash Avenue  
Beaver Valley, Colorsdo

December 18, 1981

SOUTH BAY TRS-80 USERS GROUP

Deareat John,

What a surprise! Today the postman delivered 5 golden rings, one for every finger. You're just impossible, but I love it. Frankly, all those birds squawking were beginning to get on my nerves.

All my Love,  
Agnes

Miss Agnes McHolstein  
69 Cash Avenue  
Beaver Valley, Colorado

December 19, 1981

Dear John,

When I opened the door there were actually six geese a-laying on my front steps. So you're back to the birds again, huh? Those geese are huge. Where will I ever keep them? The neighbors are complaining and I can't sleep through the racket. Please stop!

Cordially,  
Agnes

Miss Agnes McHolstein  
69 Cash Avenue  
Beaver Valley, Colorado

December 20, 1981

John,

What's with you and those stinking birds? Seven awans a-swimming. What kind of stupid joke is this? There's bird crap all over the house and they never stop with the racket. I can't sleep at night and I'm a nervous wreck. It's not funny, so stop with those blasted birds.

Sincerely,  
Agnes

Miss Agnes McHolstein  
69 Cash Avenue  
Beaver Valley, Colorado

December 21, 1981

OK, Buster,

I think I prefer the birds. What the hell am I going to do

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with eight maids a-milking? It's not enough with all those birds and eight maids a-milking, but they had to bring their cows. There's a crap all over the lawn, and I can't move in my own house. Just lay off me, please.

Agnea

Miss Agnes McHolstein  
69 Cash Avenue  
Beaver Valley, Colorado

December 22, 1981

Hey, Peabrain,

What are you? Some kind of sadiat? Now there's nine pipers playing. And, do they play! They've never stopped chasing those maids since they got here yesterday morning. The cows are getting upset and they're stepping all over those screeching birds. What am I going to do? The neighbors have started a petition to evict me.

You'll get yours,  
Agnea

Miss Agnes McHolstein  
69 Cash Avenue  
Beaver Valley, Colorado

December 23, 1981

You Rotten Swine,

Now there's ten ladies dancing. I don't know why I call them ladies. They've been fooling with those pipers all night long. Now the cows can't sleep and they've got diarrhea. My living room is a river of crap. The Commissioner of Housing has subpoenaed me to give cause why my home shouldn't be condemned. I'm calling the police!

One who means it.

Miss Agnea McHolstein  
69 Cash Avenue  
Beaver Valley, Colorado

December 24, 1981

Listen, you Amoeba,

What's with the eleven lords a-leaping on those maids and ladies? Some of these people will never walk again. Those

SOUTH BAY TRS-BO USERS GROUP

pipers have been doing unspeakable things with the cows. All 23 of the birds were trampled to death in the orgy. I hope you're satisfied with your little joke you rotten, vicious villain!

Your sworn enemy,  
Agnea

Law Offices  
Badger, Bender, and Cajole  
303 Kinsve Street  
Denver, Colorado

December 25, 1981

Dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge your latest gift of twelve fiddlers fiddling which you have seen fit to inflict on our client, Miss Agnes McHolstein. The destruction, of course, was total. All correspondence should come to our attention. If you should attempt to reach Miss Mc Holstein at Happy Dale Sanitarium, the attendants have instructions to shoot you on sight. With this letter please find attached a warrant for your arrest.

Cordially,  
Badger, Bender and Cajole

SOME EDITORIAL MAUNDERINGS AND WANDERINGS

Best gag of the year: \*\*Isn Webb's "Das Doa Wars".

Most authorities on education, as well as the laity, are in agreement that our schools have gone badly astray for the last twenty years. The kids are not at fault. Children will always reflect their environment. Which brings me rapidly to computers. If you're working with a computer, you have to do it right. Errors may be retrievable, but they must be corrected. Kids will conform to that, except it is the way things are. There could be no better discipline.

There is the usual mistrust, misunderstanding and fear of something new with regards to the use of computers in schools. They are a pedagogic tool. Certainly one of the best tools of all time, but not more than a tool. No teacher can be replaced by a computer. A good teacher is a jewel beyond compare. Great teachers are rare. So are great football players. There is a certain disparity in their salaries. Nothing new. The gladiators used to make out pretty well, too.

COMPUTER GOBBLEDEGOOK

BY DAVID R. LEE

Computer prose isn't written in ismbic meter  
In fact, the atyle ia worse thso Gabriel Heater  
Computer techs mangle our tongue  
For exmple, here's a ssmple for which someone should be  
buog:

A binary stste is known ss a bit  
But that's only the bareat beginning of it  
A set of bits is koown as s bite  
And it's tbe same sa a charcter, or just about right

In computer code there's eight bits to the byte  
But just when you think you're seeing the light  
You fiold there's eight bits or 16 to tha wrd,  
Or even 32, isn't thst absurd?

A aet of chrsrceters mskes up s field  
About this time you should be ready to yield  
Because a record ia made of a collection nf fields  
Oh, the power tbst s tecbnical jergoneer wislda

A set of records mskes up s file  
If properly organised, otherwise it's a pile  
But sometimes records make up dstahsse  
When file systems are limited, which ia often the case

Computer aize ia now essay to measure  
Turned from a chore into electronic plessure  
A K is s thousod chrsrceters (or bytea)  
While M is s million of these little delights.

Aod computer speeds are rsted in hits psr second  
Divided by teo gives chrsrceters per sscond, I reckon  
But hsrware people juat to be meen  
Ofteo talk about Bsud rate--it'a oearly obacene.

And apesking of prurience, hard about hardware  
Thst just meens equipment so don't get s score  
Theo is aoftware juat hardware tbat's turned into fluids?  
No, it meaos the programming aeemingly written by Druids.

Those wizrds of programming who write tbe iostructions  
Which run the computer snd mske sll the deductions  
And now tbat you've toured the world of computers  
Will you be addicted, or stay one of the disputers.

First a warning from ooe who knows computer traditions  
It's s machine with no judgement but which csn make  
decisions  
It's fast and accursts and s powerful tool  
But it csn't keep humsns from playing the fool  
Because the computer just does what the software bids  
And who picksd the softwsre?--well you and me, kids.

SOUTH BAY TRS-BO USERS GROUP

So "computer errors" it's easy to see  
Are like the drunk who ran his car into the tree  
On appearing in court, his knees shaking in terror  
Pled "Not guilty, your honor, it was a car error."

MAIL

11/25/B4

<Message from JIBBYTRM at SBUG-BO 11/26/84 20:41:44>  
RE: DISC DRIVE SHUNT FOR LAST DRIVE IN STRING (RADIO SHACK)  
Read command :

SORRY GUYS

1 LOST THE DISC I DOWNLOADED THE INFO ON THE CABLE  
AND HOOKUP FOR THE MODEL I DISC DRIVE. WHATS THIS  
ABOUT THE LAST DRIVE IN THE RADIO SHACK STRING NOT NEEDINT  
ANY SHUNT ??? BRUCE CARSO MODIFIED MY RS DRIVES SO I  
COULD USE AN MPI AS THE 3RD DRIVE AND HE HAD TO CHANGE  
THE SHUNT. I WAS USING A STANDARD CABLE AT THAT TIME.  
BRUCE, BRUCE WHARE ARE YOU. DON'T YOU REMEMBER HOW IT  
WAS DONE ?? IAN HAVE YOU EVER MIXED RS DRIVES WITH  
OTHERS USING A STANDARD CABLE AND NOT THE RS CABLE ??  
AGAIN I WILL MAKE IT SIMPLE !!!

- 1.) I HAVE 2 STANDARD SHUGART RS DRIVES
- 2.) I HAVE 1 STANDARD DISC DRIVE CABLE (NON-RS)
- 3.) I HAVE MADE THE MODS IAN GAVE ME ON THE CABLE
- 4.) WHAT DO MY SHUNTS LOOK LIKE FOR DRIVE 0 AND  
DRIVE 1 ????

THE DRIVES POWER UP OK BUT DON'T RESPOND TO ANY  
COMMANDS. I'M FIXING UP MY OTHER SYSTEM FOR MY SON  
FOR CHRISTMAS. HE'S IS FINALLY GETTING INTERESTED IN  
COMPUTERS AND I CAN'T GET ON MINE DURING THE WEEKENDS.

HELP---HELP----HELP

THANKS GUYS  
STILL HACKING  
JIBBYTRM

<Message from GCKEE at SBUG-BO 11/27/B4 00:40:35>  
RE: Drive Cable Answers  
Read command :

Radio Shack Drive cable philosophy is, drive 0  
Connector must have pin 12,14, and 32 pulled out,  
drive 1 must have pins 10 ,14 and 32 pulled,  
drive 2 connector must have pina 10,12, and 32  
pulled out. Drive 3 has pins 10,12, and 14 pulled  
out. With this arrangement, a full jumper in each  
drive will address that drive to ita particular  
connector address. It is necessary for all drives  
used in the drive 3 poaition to have a jumper  
installed between trace from edge connector 10

AND edge connector 32.

It IS possible to do this another way, and if you are 'DO'ing it yourself, I'de racommend it! KEEP ALL CONNECTORS COMPLETE! Pull NO PINS! Pin 32 is NOT to be Jumpered, except on drive 3, where it is to be connected to trace of pin 10 on the drive (AFTER carefully cutting just the edge connector pin 10, from it's trace) Jumper drive 3 as if it were Drive 0. Your jumpering pattern will be: HL/DO\*HL/D1\*HL/D2 & HL/DO. With this pattern, you can move the drives to any connector in the string, and thay will retain thair address! CAVEAT EMPTOR! It is quite possible to get caught in a BEAR TRAP saking new cables! I KNOW!

Lay out your frash 34 lead flat cable (from left to right) on table with the lndex (red?) lead toward you. Place tha (Computer and) edge connector on top the left end of this flat lead, pin 1-2 end toward index wire, open slot facing up! next place edge connectors for drives UNDER the cable, at the appropriate spacing, pin 1-2 end toward the index wire, open slot DOWN. Now you can consider saking the actual connection mountings! Congratulations, you got it right the first time! Cost se at least 20 connectors and 100 feet of wire to get, successfully, to this point! JIBBYTRM GET ME YOUR PHONE!GMCREE  
SBUG-80

Read command :

<Message from SYSOP at SBUG-80 11/27/84 14:06:5B>  
RE: SYSOP'S ok to upload and other responcas to complaints.  
Read command :

Hi Gang:

You don't need my ok to contribute a program. Just make sure to document your contribution in the DO INDEX section. Remember, public dossin programs only! Unless you are the author and give your ok.

As for the lack/need of features on SBUG-80. Sure TBBS is good, but TBBS does not operate liken in any way to SBUG-80. You are comparing apples and oranges (yes, they are both round, but that is all). SBUG-80 places the user at the DOS level with adequate security seasures to make the system efficient. Does TBBS use a relation data base to document programs? Can programs which are not online be requested for future downloading? Is there a membership function for officers to keep racords on everyone. Can you observe system directorias? Can the system be EASILY modified with new features (i.e. BASIC). There are many trade offs, but for a PRIVATE SBS (oura) SBUG-80 is more than adequate for the joh.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL